

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1152

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, PINR, US
SUBJECT: GREEK CYPRIOT MISREADING OF US INTENTIONS

REF: (A) NICOSIA 1151, (B) STATE 095678, (C) NICOSIA 1064

1. IN A FURTHER EFFORT TO COUNTERACT THE HOSTILE REACTIONS OF GREEK CYPRIOTS TOWARD THE US ADMINISTRATION'S ANNOUNCED POLICY ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY, I CALLED ON DIRGEN (AND CURRENTLY ACTING HEAD OF FONOFF) PELAGHIAS APRIL 28. IN DOING SO, I WAS AWARE THAT PELAGHIAS HIMSELF HAS BEEN A MINE OF MISINFORMATION FOR THE PRESS, DIPLOMATS AND VISITING DIGNITARIES.

2. I BEGAN BY NOTING THAT USG IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A STRONG EFFORT TO (A) PERSUADE ANKARA THAT THE TURKISH SIDE SHOULD LIVE UP TO ITS VIENNA COMMITMENT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN NICOSIA IN MID-MAY, AND (B) ADD SUBSTANCE TO THAT NEGOTIATION BY MAKING CERTAIN HOPEFULLY CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS TO BOTH SIDES REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ASPECTS. RE (A), I TOLD PELAGHIAS THAT USG HAD REACTED VIGOROUSLY WITH TURKEY TO PREVIOUS
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DAY'S POSITION TAKEN BY DENKTASH OPPOSING RESUMPTION UNTIL MID-JUNE. REF (B), I TOLD PELAGHIAS THAT I WOULD BE SEEING NEGOTIATOR PAPADOPOULOS APR 29 TO CONVEY SUGGESTIONS ON SUBSTANCE. I REMARKED THAT THESE ACTIONS SHOWED CONTINUING PURPOSEFULNESS OF US ADMINISTRATION IN ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF HELP WHICH HAD BEEN ASKED OF US.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AND TURKEY, I SAID, HAS BEEN CAREFULLY FORMULATED WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVE. TURKEY WELL UNDERSTANDS AS A RESULT OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION AND THIS POLICY THAT PASSAGE OF ITS DCA IS CONTINGENT ON SUSTAINED AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A CYPRUS SOLUTION. I REVIEWED FOR PELAGHIAS THE ESSENTIALS OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR GREECE AND TURKEY.

4. I TOLD PELAGHIAS THAT FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES AND OTHER SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS HAD RECENTLY BEGUN TO TAKE WITH US THE LINE THAT IF US IS UNABLE TO DELIVER SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS FROM TURKEY BY SUCH AND SUCH A TIME --AUGUST BEING THE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED--GOC WILL BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT US HELP HAD BEEN OF NO UTILITY, WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT GOC WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER OTHER OPTIONS. I COMMENTED THAT THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO "YOU THREATENING THAT YOU WILL WITHDRAW CONFIDENCE IN OUR EFFORT TO HELP YOUR NEGOTIATION." GIVEN THE STEADFASTNESS OF USG'S APPROACH OF WHICH I HAD JUST SPOKEN, THIS KIND OF THREAT ILL-SUITS THE FACTS. CYPRUS HAS AN IMPORTANT ASSET IN THE PRIORITY AND INTEREST OF THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION. GOC'S LEADERS, I SAID, RISK DISSIPATION OF THAT ASSET IF THEY MISREPRESENT THE US POSITION.

5. PELAGHIAS ASSERTED THAT HE AGREED ENTIRELY. HE READ ME A TELEGRAM JUST RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU IN WASHINGTON REPORTING A CONVERSATION WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ IN WHICH LATTER HAD EXPRESSED SEVERAL OF THE SAME POINTS. HE ALSO READ DIMITRIOU'S CONCLUSION WHICH WAS THAT GOC SHOULD REGARD USG AS SERIOUS IN ITS DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL AND USG WAS PURSUING AN APPROPRIATE AND CARE-CONFIDENTIAL

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FULLY THOUGHT OUT POLICY OF WHICH THE APPROACH TO TURKISH SECURITY ASSISTANCE WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT.

6. PELAGHIAS PROMISED TO REDOUBLE HIS EFFORTS TO SEE THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS IS APPROPRIATELY COUNSELED.

7. PELAGHIAS THEN GAVE ME A FOLIO CONTAINING A MEMORANDUM AND SEVERAL ADDENDA GIVING THE GOC'S VERSION OF VIENNA, THIS BEING A STATEMENT OF GOC'S FULFILLMENT OF COMMITMENTS TO CLIFFORD AND OTHERS, CONTRASTED WITH TURKISH DEFAULT. HE SAID MEMORANDUM WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN NICOSIA FOR BACKGROUND OF GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PUBLICITY. I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD CARE TO BET. HAVING READ OVER THE MEMORANDUM QUICKLY, I SAID I THOUGHT GOC WAS ILL-ADVISED IN DISSEMINATING IT. THERE WOULD BE PUBLICITY. TURKS WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND WITH THEIR VERSION, SETTING OFF A SPIRAL UNHELPFUL TO THE MAY NEGOTIATION ON WHICH WE WERE WORKING. FURTHERMORE, MR CLIFFORD'S DIPLOMACY IN ANKARA AND NICOSIA HAD BEEN

CARRIED OUT IN FRIENDSHIP AND THE EXPECTATION OF REASONABLE
CONFIDENCE. I DOUBTED HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE HIS NAME
AND WORK EXPLOITED FOR GOC'S SHORT-TERM PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE.
PELAGHIAS PROFESSED CONCERN. IN SAYING IT WAS TOO BAD WE
HAD NOT HAD THIS CONVERSATION A FEW DAYS EARLIER, PELAGHIAS SEEMED
TO CONFIRM MY SUSPICION THAT THE GOC MEMORANDUM HAS ALREADY
GONE TO THE PRESS.

8. HIGHLIGHTS OF MEMORANDUM ARE BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL.
CRAWFORD

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